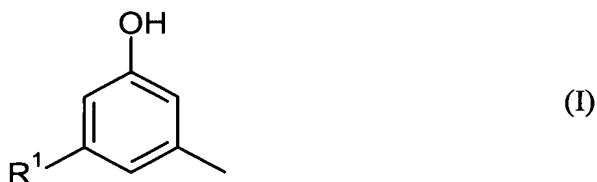


Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A Mannich base prepared using at least one phenolic compound of the formula (I)



with $R^1 = H$ or CH_3

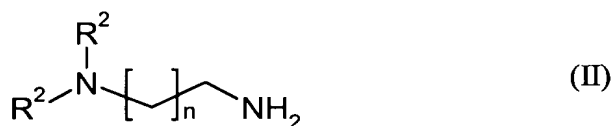
and a formaldehyde and at least one polyamine, wherein the Mannich base is prepared by:

reacting the phenolic compound with the formaldehyde in the presence of a tertiary amine; and

reacting a resulting product with the at least one ~~polyamine~~ polyamine to obtain the Mannich base, the Mannich base having primary amino groups.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine has the formula (II)



with $R^2 = C_1-C_6$ alkyl and $n = 1, 2, \text{ or } 3$.

4. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the formaldehyde is added to a mixture of the phenolic compound of formula (I) and the tertiary amine.

5. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein $R^1 = H$ in formula (I).

6. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 3, wherein $R^2 = CH_3$ in formula (II).

7. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 3, wherein $n = 2$ in formula (II).

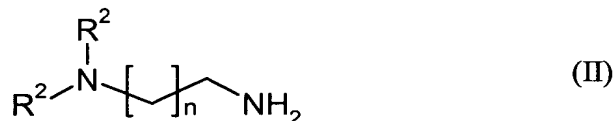
8. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the viscosity at 25°C is less than 1000 mPas.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a Mannich base, comprising:
reacting at least one phenolic compound with formaldehyde in the presence of a tertiary amine; and

reacting a resulting product with at least one ~~polyamine~~ polyamine to obtain the Mannich base, the Mannich base having primary amino groups.

10. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the formaldehyde is added to a mixture of the phenolic compound and the tertiary amine.

11. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the tertiary amine has the formula (II)

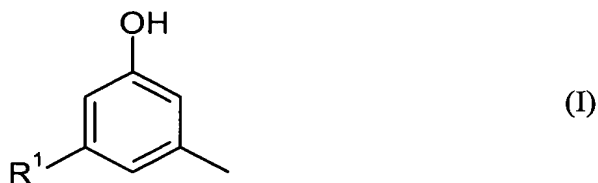


with $R^2 = C_1-C_6$ alkyl and $n = 1, 2, \text{ or } 3$.

12. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 11, wherein $R^2 = CH_3$ in formula (II).

13. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 11, wherein $n = 2$ in formula (II).

14. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 9, wherein the phenolic compound is a phenolic compound of the formula (I)



with $R^1 = H$ or CH_3 .

15. (Previously Presented) The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 14, wherein $R^1 = H$ in formula (I).

16. (Previously Presented) A hardener component for two-component epoxy systems or polyurethane systems, wherein the hardener component comprises a Mannich base as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) An epoxy system or polyurethane system comprising at least one Mannich base as claimed in claim 1.

19. (Previously Presented) An epoxy system or polyurethane system comprising at least one Mannich base and obtained by a process as claimed in claim 9.

20. (Previously Presented) A cured product obtained from an epoxy system or polyurethane system as claimed in claim 19.

21. (Previously Presented) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the viscosity at 25°C is in the range between 200 and 700 mPas.

22. (New) The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, wherein the phenolic compound is 3,5-xyleneol.